

## **Foundations of English Language Arts in Wisconsin**

### **English language arts is an integrated discipline.**

Though the standards are separated into sections, the processes of reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and representing happen in a connected way, and are intended to be taught as such, in rich and authentic learning contexts. (CCSS, p.4)

### **English language arts instruction builds an understanding of the human experience.**

The discipline of English language arts celebrates the richness and complexity of literature, drama, speech and language while providing a window to the human experience. Through rigorous textual analysis and text creation, students grapple with moral, philosophical and aesthetic facets of humanity, which inform, persuade and narrate our lives and help us understand the experiences of others. These understandings ensure students graduate not only ready for college and career, but also ready to be thinking and feeling world citizens.

### **Literacy is an evolving concept, and becoming literate is a lifelong learning process.**

As society and technology change, so does literacy. Literacy evolves as widening perspectives change the way we read, write, speak, listen, view and represent. Students begin the process of becoming literate long before entering the classroom, and continue this process in every classroom throughout their formal schooling, and long after formal schooling is completed. Literacy attainment, and especially early literacy attainment, is strengthened by responsive learning environments that include research-based core programs, strong intervention systems, and multiple ways of monitoring what learners know and are able to do. Knowing this, all educators must see themselves as both literacy teachers and literacy learners. (CCSS, p.4)

### **Critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity are aspects of effective English language arts instruction and attributes of Wisconsin graduates.**

Wisconsin's commitment to ensuring that 21st century skills are embedded aspects of English language arts is ongoing. This skill development strengthens English instruction, and student mastery of these skills is important to Wisconsin's conception of college and career readiness, and to ensuring students access the discipline of English language arts in rich and meaningful ways. (CCSS, p. 7)

### **Literacy, language and meaning are socially constructed and are enhanced by multiple perspectives.**

A rich diversity of texts, language uses, viewpoints and critical discussions are important for building knowledge in Wisconsin English classrooms. Exposure to different genres and text types, and access to multiple and global perspectives provide a venue to explore and analyze the world. (CCSS, p. 7)